



## **CITY OF NEWBURGH POLICE DEPARTMENT**

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
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**TO: Press Sources**

**DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: January 1 through August 31, 2011**

**LOCATION: City of Newburgh**

**TOPIC: Crime Trends Report/public service announcement**

The City of Newburgh Police Department announces noticeable increases in property and violent crime over the recent summer months. Multiple efforts were put into place over the summer to keep violent crime from spiraling out of control, including joint patrols between the City of Newburgh Police and the Orange County Sheriff's Office, as well as joint patrols with the State Police. These joint patrols produced crime reductions during the time of the patrols, but scarce resources prevented constant additional patrols. Consequently, the city still experienced increases on shifts when joint patrols were not active. Nonetheless, the efforts of the Sheriff's Office and State Police did yield much needed proactive assistance that lead to reductions on the most active shifts.

The City experienced significant reductions in multiple crime categories for the first few months of the year. The Police Department has worked tirelessly to maintain those reductions, but manpower issues and overtime costs have prevented the Department from targeting problems as vigorously as needed. By the end of the first quarter of 2011, the city was experiencing a lofty 36% decrease in Part One crime. This included a 30% reduction in Violent Crime and a 38% reduction in Property Crime. All crime categories but Robbery showed reductions by the end of the first quarter. The summer months of 2011 showed significant increases in crime that have steadily chipped away at the major reductions obtained earlier in the year. By the end of August, the city was experiencing a minor decrease of 2% in Part One Crime. There is now only a 9% reduction in violent crime, but we fear this reduction will be lost completely very shortly. Robbery is showing a 27% increase year to date. The City has also seen increases in Aggravated Assaults in the last two months. Property Crime is also expected to continue to increase dramatically. Residential Burglary and Larceny-theft have shown year to date increases driven by significant recent surges in activity.

The City of Newburgh Police Department is requesting the public's assistance in controlling this crime. Currently, the city is seeing chain snatching robberies in which one or more subjects will grab gold chains and rip them from the neck of unsuspecting citizens. Gold values have soared making the rewards of these crimes outweigh the potential risk of arrest. CNPD is asking the public to conceal their gold chains, especially thicker ones that might also have medallions, crosses or charms attached. The police department highly recommends that any persons avoid when possible from wearing these items out on the street or in public. If they must be worn, take efforts to completely conceal them from perpetrators. This will eliminate a lot of opportunity.

Property Crime increases are being driven by significant increases in Residential Burglary and Thefts from Motor Vehicles. Residential Burglary has been increasing for several

months with August 2011 showing a 71% increase. Multiple arrests have been made of burglars over the summer, but they have not helped reduce the burglary levels. The City of Newburgh Police Department is asking residents to lock all doors and windows when they are not home and to report any suspicious activity. Copper pipes are being targeted from vacant housing as well as jewelry, cash and electronics from occupied residences. Several cases show rear entry into homes making observation of activities by patrol officers extremely difficult. CNPD needs eyes and ears from around buildings reporting questionable activity. Citizens can also protect themselves from thefts from their cars. July showed a 105% increase in theft from motor vehicles followed by a 36% increase in August. Residents, students, workers and visitors alike are reminded not to leave valuables inside vehicles where criminals can see them. (Eliminate opportunity) These crime are costing people far more beyond the replacement cost of the property stolen due to broken windows or damaged doors. Again, CNPD is asking residents to be watchful of their neighborhoods and the activity around them and to report any suspicious activity.

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